

VILLAGE COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2015

The Village of Estero Council Workshop was held on this date at the Estero Fire Rescue District Meeting Room, 21500 Three Oaks Parkway, Estero, Florida.

Present: Mayor Nick Batos - District 6, Vice-Mayor Howard Levitan - District 2, Councilmember Bill Ribble, District 1, Councilmember Donald Brown - District 3, Councilmember Katy Errington - District 4, Councilmember Jim Boesch - District 5, and Councilmember Jim Wilson - District 7.

Also present: Village Manager Peter Lombardi, Village Attorney Burt Saunders, and Village Clerk Kathy Hall.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Batos called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted at the preceding Special Council meeting.

3. ROLL CALL

Village Clerk Kathy Hall called the roll; all members were present.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was not made.

5. COUNCIL BUSINESS

(A) Discussion: Short-term Lease with The Brooks Executive Suites for Community Development Department Offices (Councilmember Ribble)

Agenda item was moved to the preceding Special Council meeting agenda for action.

(B) Discussion: Obtaining a Lobbyist (Mayor Batos)

Village Attorney Saunders stated that it would be a good idea for the Village to have a voice in Tallahassee and believed that all the cities and counties in the southwest Florida region had representation. He noted that there were no major issues affecting Estero; however, there may be local bills and funding opportunities. He stated that, if the Council was interested in retaining Gray Robinson with him as the Village's lobbyist, he would charge a low fee for the next 6 to 8 months until the next legislative session began and then go on from there, on a month to month basis. He suggested an agreement effective November 1, 2015 at \$1,500 per month, in effect until the end of August 2016; beginning September 1, 2016 the fee would increase to \$2,500 per month. Brief Council discussion followed. Consensus was for Village Attorney Saunders to provide a resolution and an agreement at a future Council meeting.

Mayor Batos called for public comment and no one came forward.

(C) Discussion: 5-Year Capital Budget Plan (Mayor Batos)

Mayor Batos provided an explanation regarding a proposed Capital Improvement Program procedure, along with a Research Service Agreement between the Village and Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees to perform an Estero infrastructure survey. Council discussion followed.

Public Comment:

Doug Saxton, The Reserve resident, offered support for the process, hoped that the Village would get enough people to provide comments, and offered help as a volunteer.

Mayor Batos inquired whether Councilmembers had revisions to the procedure. Brief discussion ensued and consensus was for the Village Manager to put the procedure and the Research Service Agreement on the next meeting agenda for approval.

9. PUBLIC INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Batos called for public input on any issue and no one came forward.

10. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Vice Mayor Levitan reported that a second meeting was held with the team of developers regarding the proposed Bill Spikowski Comprehensive Plan amendments. He indicated that the developers provided a detailed plan for consideration and a workshop with Seth Harry and Bill Spikowski would be scheduled. He also spoke regarding the recent Planning and Zoning Board meeting related to the Bella Terra development and the Corkscrew Road concerns raised by the public attending the meeting. Discussion followed regarding the Village conducting a traffic study due to upcoming projects that the Village would be commenting on. It was noted that three traffic study proposals were available for consideration. Village Manager Lombardi stated that copies of the three proposals would be provided and discussion scheduled for the next Council workshop.

Councilmember Brown extended appreciation to Vice Mayor Levitan for his work on the Community Development Department contract and Councilmember Ribble for his work on the offices.

Councilmember Errington noted that the Koreshan Preserve was looking really good. She also requested that the Council begin thinking about adopting an official Village seal and Village flag. Vice Mayor Levitan noted that there was an old Estero seal.

Councilmember Wilson spoke regarding concerns raised at the Planning and Zoning Board meeting related to vehicles attempting to exit Bella Terra in the morning.

11. VILLAGE MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Village Manager Lombardi spoke to the detailed plan on creating the Community Development Department that was presented by the Vice Mayor.

12. VILLAGE ATTORNEY'S COMMENTS

None.

13. ADJOURN

Councilmember Brown moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember Errington, called and carried unanimously.

Mayor Batos adjourned the meeting at 12:37 p.m.

ATTEST:

VILLAGE OF ESTERO, FLORIDA

By: _____

By: _____

Kathy Hall, MMC
Village Clerk

Nicholas Batos
Mayor